

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10, 11, and 13-15, cancel claims 8, 9, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, and add new claims 25-33 such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method of holding paint ~~a fluid~~ comprising:

providing a container having a bottom wall end and a sidewall extending from the bottom wall end to define a cavity which has a top opening larger than the bottom wall main body, the container having a rim located at an upper perimeter of an opening defined by the main body of the container;

providing a supportive strap having a first end and a second end with the first and second ends secured to the container, the supportive strap being at least partially elastic and extending along but outwardly spaced from the sidewall to form a pocket between the supportive strap and the sidewall;

inserting a user's hand into the pocket so that a palm side of the hand engages the sidewall of the container, wherein the at least partially elastic supportive strap engages a back side of the hand to urge the palm side of the hand against the sidewall and stabilizes the container with respect to movement relative to the hand an appendage through the pocket, wherein the supportive strap elastically urges the appendage against the sidewall; and

introducing paint through the top opening and ~~a fluid~~ into the cavity of the container.

3.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, and further comprising:

securing the second end of the supportive strap to the bottom wall end of the container.

- 4.(Original) The method of claim 3, and further comprising:  
adjusting a length of the supportive strap wherein a size of the pocket is likewise adjusted.
- 5.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, and further comprising:  
providing a paint fluid applicator tool;  
inserting the paint fluid applicator tool into the paint fluid within the cavity of the container;  
and  
applying the paint fluid to a surface with the paint fluid applicator tool.
- 6.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the container has a front side and a rear side, and further comprising:  
providing a retainer disposed adjacent the rear side of the container for securing at least  
a portion of the paint fluid applicator tool within the cavity of the container.
- 7.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the providing a retainer step comprises:  
affixing a magnet relative to the sidewall and below the top opening of the cavity of the  
container [is a magnet].
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
- 10.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the paint applicator tool is a brush.
- 11.(Currently Amended) A method for applying paint onto a surface ~~a coating material~~ comprising:

providing a container having a bottom wall end and a sidewall which define a cavity, the cavity having a top opening which is opposite and larger than the bottom wall to define a main body, the container having an opening with a perimeter defined by the main body of the container;

providing attaching a strap having a first end and a second end, with the first end secured to the container adjacent the top opening and the second end secured to the container adjacent the bottom wall to the sidewall and bottom end, wherein at least a portion of the strap is at least partially elastic;

inserting a user's hand between the container and through the strap so that a palm side of the hand engages the sidewall of the container, wherein the at least partially elastic strap engages a back side of the hand to urge the palm side of the hand against the sidewall and stabilizes the container with respect to movement relative to the hand to engage with the sidewall of the container and the flexible strap;

introducing paint through the top opening and a coating material into the cavity of the container;

providing a paint an applicator tool;

inserting the paint applicator tool through the top opening and into the paint in the cavity of the container coating material; and

applying the paint coating material to a surface with the paint applicator tool.

12. (Canceled)

13.(Currently Amended)      The method of claim 11, and further comprising wherein the attaching step further comprises:

adjusting a length of the strap to accommodate different hand sizes.

14.(Currently Amended)      The method of claim 11, wherein the container has a front section and a rear section, and further comprising:

providing a retainer disposed adjacent the rear section of the container for securing at least a portion of the paint applicator tool within the cavity of the container.

15.(Currently Amended)      The method of claim 14, wherein the providing a retainer step comprises: affixing a magnet relative to the sidewall and below the top opening of the cavity of the container is a magnet.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)



31. (New) A method of holding a coating fluid comprising:
- providing a container having a bottom wall and a sidewall extending from the bottom wall to define a cavity which has a top opening larger than the bottom wall;
  - providing a supportive strap having a first end and a second end with the first and second ends secured to the container, the supportive strap comprising an elastic portion and extending along but outwardly spaced from the sidewall to form a pocket between the supportive strap and the sidewall;
  - inserting a user's hand into the pocket so that a palm side of the hand engages the sidewall of the container, wherein the elastic portion of the supportive strap engages a back side of the hand such that the supportive strap urges the palm side of the hand against the sidewall and stabilizes the container with respect to movement relative to the hand; and
  - introducing coating fluid through the top opening and into the cavity of the container.
32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the container has a front side and a rear side, and further comprising:
- affixing a magnet relative to the sidewall, the magnet being disposed adjacent the rear side of the container and below the top opening of the cavity of the container for securing at least a portion of a coating fluid applicator tool within the cavity of the container.
33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the coating tool applicator is a brush.